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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,621	12/21/2001	Walter Callen	DIVER1350-6	9848
45975	7590	01/04/2007		
DIVERSA C/O MOFO S.D. 12531 HIGH BLUFF DRIVE SUITE 100 SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2040			EXAMINER HUTSON, RICHARD G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1652	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

74

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/034,621		CALLEN ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Richard G. Hutson		1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-12,16,17,28-44,46-49,51-53 and 56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34,35,38 and 44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-11,28-33,36,37,39-43,46-49,51-53 and 55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment of claims 1-7, 9-12, 16, 28-33, 36, 37, 46-49, 51-53 and 55, in the paper of 10/16/2006 is acknowledged. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 16, 17, 28-44, 46-49, 51-53 and 56 are still at issue and are present for examination.

Applicants' arguments filed on 10/16/2006, have been fully considered and are deemed to be persuasive to overcome some of the rejections previously applied. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn.

Claims 34, 35, 38 and 44 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicants request of the opportunity to discuss this application with the Examiner prior to the issuing of any further official actions are issued for this application, is acknowledged, and welcomed. Due to the time constraints placed upon the office as a result of compacting prosecution, applicants attention is directed to the MPEP, Section 713 and 37 CFR 1.133, regarding Interviews.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 3 is dependent upon rejected claim 1.

Claims 12 recites "(b) sequences fully complementary to (a)". It is suggested that this be amended to "(b) sequences fully complementary to the complete nucleic acid sequences of (a)".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 28-33, 36, 37, 39-43, 46-49, 51-53 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 and encoding a polypeptide having polymerase activity, does not reasonably provide enablement for any nucleic acid comprising a sequence that encodes a polypeptide having polymerase activity wherein the sequence comprises a mere 100 consecutive bases of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The rejection was stated in the previous office action as it applied to previous claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 28-33, 36, 37, 39-43, 46-49, 51-53 and 55. In response to this previous rejection, applicants have amended claims 1-7, 9-12, 16, 28-33, 36, 37, 46-49, 51-53 and 55 and traverse the rejection as it applies to the newly amended claims.

Applicants traverse the rejection on the basis that applicants instant amendment address the issue raised in the previous office action, that the specification does not provide reasonable enablement for any nucleic acid of 100 consecutive bases of SEQ ID NO: 1 and encoding a polypeptide having polymerase activity.

An applicant amendment of claim 12 and the comments regarding such acknowledged and appreciated and claim 12 has been removed from the rejection.

However, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 28-33, 36, 37, 39-43, 46-49, 51-53 and 55 remain rejected for the reasons previously stated and repeated herein.

Applicants do provide guidance for the production of the encompassed nucleic acids. Without such guidance one of ordinary skill would be reduced to the necessity of producing and testing all of the virtually infinite possibilities. This would clearly constitute undue experimentation. While enablement is not precluded by the necessity for routine screening, if a large amount of screening is required, the specification must provide a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experimentation should proceed. While some guidance as argued by applicants' representative has been provided in the instant specification, such guidance is insufficient to enable those currently claimed nucleic acids which have the claimed identity to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Because of this lack of guidance, the extended experimentation that would be required to determine which substitutions would be acceptable to retain the desired activity/function and the fact that the relationship between the sequence of a peptide and its tertiary structure (i.e. its activity) are not well understood and are not predictable, it would require undue experimentation for one skilled in the art to arrive at the majority of those polypeptides of the claimed genus defined merely as all nucleic acids having at the claimed identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 and encoding a polypeptide having polymerase activity.

Art Unit: 1652

Thus, applicants have not provided sufficient guidance to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the claimed invention in a manner reasonably correlated with the scope of the claims broadly including those nucleic acids comprising a sequence with the defined structural relationship to SEQ ID NO: 1. The scope of the claims must bear a reasonable correlation with the scope of enablement (In re Fisher, 166 USPQ 19 24 (CCPA 1970)). Without sufficient guidance, determination of having the desired biological characteristics is unpredictable and the experimentation left to those skilled in the art is unnecessarily, and improperly, extensive and undue. See In re Wands 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2nd 1400 (Fed. Cir, 1988).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1652

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard G. Hutson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0930. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard G Hutson, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

rg
12/18/2006